

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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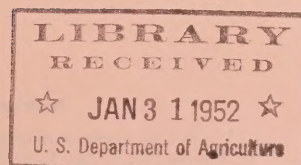
Dundalk 22, Baltimore, Md.

JOSEPH S. MERRITT SR.  
JR.

The Maryland Flower Garden

HYDRANGAEA SPECIALIST

Phone, Dundalk 0226



Ship To  
Street and No.  
City and State

Date

195

Our Order No.

Your Order No.

To Ship

No. Bxs.

Shipped

Via } Exp.  
Frts.  
Truck

Invoice To  
Street and No.  
City and State

ALL PRICES PER 100 PLANTS—ORDERS ACCEPTED IN UNITS OF 25 PER VARIETY.

VARIETIES	R. C.	2"	3"	4"	5"	6"	7"	8"	AMOUNT
1949 INTRODUCTIONS	25.00	35.00	50.00	60.00	70.00	90.00	150.00	300.00	
Charm, E: Carmine Red			Wholesale ONLY						\$
*Charming, M: Pink									
Dixie, M: Rose Pink									
Drapes Pink, E: Salmon Pink									
Dundalk, M: Medium Red									
*Rose Supreme, M: Rose Pink									
Southland, M: Carmine									
Spring Time, E: Carmine Pink									
"Joan Merritt" M: A New White									
1950 Importations									
Benelux,									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$
NOVELTIES per 100	16.00	25.00	30.00	50.00	60.00	80.00	125.00	250.00	
"bobby merritt" M: Coral Bell Pink									
"jean merritt" M: Dark Pink									
Caprice, M: Excellent White									
Engel's White, M: Strong Grower									
*Strafford, M: Dark Pink									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$
RECENT INTRODUCTIONS per 100	14.00	20.00	25.00	45.00	55.00	80.00	100.00	250.00	
Altona, E: Clear Pink									
*Europa, E: Salmon Pink									
Hamburg, E: Carmine									
Kuhnert, M: Rose Pink									
Merveille, L: Light Red									
Regula, E: White									
*Rosabelle, L: Rose Pink									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$
STANDARD VARIETIES per 100	8.00	12.00	20.00	40.00	50.00	75.00	90.00	200.00	
*Gertrude Glahn, M: Dark Rose									
*Niedersachsen, E: Light Pink									
**Our Selection									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$

\*Blues Easily E: Early M: Mid-Season L: Late

TOTAL AMOUNT \$

\*\*Best for season wanted, billed according to variety shipped.

Flowering Shoots per Plant—3", One Shoot; 4", Two or More; 5", Three or More; 6", Four or More; 7", Seven or More; 8", Eight or More.

Merritt's Hydrangeas Bloom



# Merritt's Hydrangeas Bloom

## Hydrangea Culture

We are Hydrangea Specialists, growing no other Flowers or Plants. We do not force Hydrangeas into flower, but concentrate all of our efforts to produce better Hydrangeas for you to bloom. We ship rooted cuttings and small plants, in season in all varieties, for growing on, and dormant Hydrangeas in the Fall and early Spring for forcing. We force some of every variety, each year, for a culture check, and they can be seen at our Greenhouses during the early Spring months.

First, make sure of the varieties that grow best for you and that sell best in your locality. Try a few novelties each year to see how they act under your conditions, but stick to the proven varieties until you have found a better one. If in doubt, as to variety, please specify your selection early, mid-season or late, and we will give our very best judgment from our past experience giving the best varieties for your locality.

If you propagate your own, do not make the common mistake of rooting all of the blind shoots that appear. Remember that "Like begets Like" and if this practice is followed, it will eventually lead to disaster, and one day you will find a complete crop of blind Hydrangeas. Rather than that, keep varieties separate and select the very best flowering plants and get your cuttings from these by sacrificing the flower tips. It will pay dividends.

The soil for potting should be low in nitrogen, particularly so with leafbuds, but should contain phosphorus, potash and calcium. A good mixture consists of two parts loam, one part of peat and one part of well rotted manure. If the original soil is very heavy, some sand may be added. Include a four-inch potful of superphosphate and a 2½-inch potful of muriate of potash and the same amount of calcium sulphate (gypsum) to a wheelbarrow of soil. Complete fertilizers which contain nitrogen should be added later upon repotting. Keep the pH of the soil about 6.0.

Shift the plants from two- or three-inch in which they were potted, directly into five- or six-inch pots and place these outdoors, after danger of frost, in the Spring. This is a better method than planting directly in beds. In regions of extreme heat, a lath house or a covering with snow fence is very desirable. Such half shade develops large foliage, particularly if additions of ammonium sulphate are made about every two weeks, used as a liquid at the rate of one ounce to two gallons of water (three lbs. to 100 gallons). During the same growing period two or three applications of such complete soluble fertilizer as 15-30-15 should be made using it at the above rate. This will insure adequate phosphorus and potash content.

Depending on the color of the foliage, iron sulphate should be used to correct chlorosis. Use it at the rate of three pounds to 100 gallons or one ounce to two gallons. The iron will keep the foliage green. It has no bearing on the bluing of flowers unless the soil itself contains aluminum which may become available as the soil is acidified by iron sulphate. Growing in the field and not potting until September is a common method but its success depends on adequate rainfall, and only moderate heat in the summer. Usually under such a treatment most of the growth starts late, when temperatures are reduced and much blindness results.

Pinching should be done from late June to mid-July, depending upon the locality and variety. The early pinching should be done in the north to produce enough growth before buds set in September. Pinch as low as possible, leaving two sets of leaves and thus four buds (where practical). If plants are well grown (properly fertilized and watered), the wood is sufficiently heavy and yet succulent so soft pinching is not objectionable.

Depending again on locality, the plants under lath should be given full sun (by removing the snow fence) from August 1 to September 1. The longer the plants are kept under lath the taller they get. The abrupt change from half shade to full sun may cause some foliage burn, but this is never serious if the plants are sprayed often with water. The change will cause the buds to set quickly due to the action of full light on the large foliage which will manufacture the food for the buds.

An adequate watering system, or automatic water lines are your best insurance against drought.

Earlier pinching is advocated when plants are grown without cover, particularly varieties like Strafford, Merveille and Dundalk. Sufficient growth must be produced by September to insure bud set. Pot grown plants are better than those planted directly in the fields or beds. Plunge them to reduce drying out, but be sure your soil drains well.

During the growing period all weak shoots should be removed and the growth concentrated in the number of stems you wish to finish. It is best to do that as early after the buds develop from a pinch as possible. Again during this growing-on period don't be stingy with water and fertilizer. Continue to give adequate water until October but be sure that your plants are in a protected frame or cool greenhouse before there is any danger of frost. Don't take chances, even though well-hardened Hydrangeas will take a heavy freeze.

The best place to store hydrangeas from about November on is a dark storage where the temperature may be kept between 35°-40° F. During this period keep the soil moist but don't overwater. Drying out will shrivel buds. Be sure there is a proper circulation of air, to prevent bud drop. Spray or dust with "Zerlate" (DuPont) several times, while in storage.

Start forcing right after your poinsettia benches have been cleaned out December 20 to 25th. Some advocate starting at 50° F to 56° F, and then raising the temperature to 60° after about two weeks. Some people have difficulty in getting the plants to break quickly. This may be due to a number of causes. If you buy dormant stock, pot the plants in the same size pot as they were grown in. Repot when the new roots have started. Furthermore, don't keep the plants so wet that there is not enough air in the soil to develop new roots from the dormant ball. If you are growing your own plants, again let us warn you about overwatering at first. There is a sensible limit to the suggestion of using lots of water.

If you buy dormant plants and wish to save the double work of potting in the same size pots and later shifting to a large size, be sure that the soil you use is low in nitrogen, else you will have trouble. Likewise light crushing of the dormant ball will help the roots to develop more quickly. Add phosphorus, potash and calcium as indicated under soil for potting.

To avoid yellowing of leaves (chlorosis), apply the iron sulphate and ammonium sulphate mixture as recommended previously. This is now during the forcing period. In addition apply complete fertilizers (15-30-15 or similar) in liquid form two or three times during this period. Or use Electra, applied at the rate of a thimble full to a five-inch pot, every ten days during the forcing period, until the plants show color. Be sure the soil is moist (never dry) when applying fertilizer. To blue Hydrangeas, use aluminum sulphate at the rate of one pound to five gallons of water. Depending on your soil, 3-7 applications may be needed to give the color you want. Regular use of iron sulphate, especially where water is alkaline, will keep your blues cleaner.

During the hot days of spring, do not permit plants to dry out or serious foliage burn will result. At the first sign of wilting, water and syringe. If you see signs of scorching due to drying and heat, syringe thoroughly and shade. Try to always give some ventilation, and as much as possible during the last days of forcing. If possible, reduce temperatures during the last two weeks before sale. You'll have better color and the plants will last longer in the house. At 60 buds should show, in most localities, six weeks before sale.

For Mother's Day, start forcing in February and follow the same general growing procedure.

Keep red spider, thrips, aphids down with TEPP or Parathion aerosols.

Mildew may be kept in check with Zerlate.

Always remember, the best Hydrangeas come from the earliest cuttings.

JOSEPH S. MERRITT